

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01214 110636Z

17

ACTION PM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1689

DIVENGR USAEDM LEGHORN ITALY/MDDAO/

20TFW RAF UPPER HEYFORD ENG/DO

INFO ASD/ISA WASHDC

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 1214

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR LY

SUBJECT: U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT

1. FOR DEPT'S INFORMATION, WE HAVE RECEIVED CABLE FROM USAF IN LEGHORN, ITALY, INQUIRING ABOUT PROBABILITY OF LIBYAN OFFICIALS GIVING PERMISSION FOR ONE U-8D AIRCRAFT, COMMANDED BY U.S. MILITARY OFFICERS, TO LAND AND REFUEL AT BENINA AIRPORT, BENGHAZI ON WAY FROM SAUDI ARABIA TO ROTA, SPAIN. OUR STRONG FEELING IS THAT LIBYAN OFFICIALS WOULD NOT GIVE SUCH PERMISSION, AND WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO ASK. RECOMMEND FLIGHT BE RE-ROUTED TO AVOID LIBYA.

2. ALSO FOR DEPT'S INFORMATION, WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT EIGHT F-111 AIRCRAFT FROM 20 FTW RAF, UPPER HEYFORD, ENGLAND WILL BE CROSSING TRIPOLI FIR ON NOVEMBER 20 AND AGAIN ON DECEMBER 1. AS LONG AS AIRCRAFT OBSERVE DOD GUIDELINES AND STAY AT LEAST 50 NAUTICAL MILES OFF LIBYAN COAST, WE WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE PROBLEM IN THIS CASE. ASSUME NO NOTIFICATION OF FLIGHT NEED BE MADE BY US TO LIBYAN GOVERNMENT.

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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 01214 110636Z

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